

**From:** Paul Jones  
**Sent:** 11/4/2020 3:51:26 PM  
**To:** Ota, Allan [Ota.Allan@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Ross, Brian [Ross.Brian@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: LA Times article

**Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**

Hi, Allan: I'm glad you were out at sea for a good while. Thanks for getting back to me about the update on the LA situation. I'd be more than happy to have a Zoom meeting with you. Mostly, I am available on Tue and Thur and in the afternoons of M, W, F. Given the fact that you're still working and likely much busier than I am, please feel free to find a time that works for you and there is a good chance I can make it work.

I'd say something about the election but there's the Hatch Act to consider, so I will hold my tongue.

Otherwise, I do hope you and your families are well.

Paul

PS: I thought Sue K had retired. But she had an EPA email address....??

On Tue, Nov 3, 2020 at 12:50 PM Ota, Allan <Ota.Allan@epa.gov> wrote:

I just got back from the LA-2 survey late last night; a lot of driving for this survey (down to San Diego) and for the SF-DODS survey (up to Newport, OR) over the last 6-7 weeks. I had just relied to Sue Keydel before I saw your email... she alerted us to this article, but I did not see this until I got back on land due to stupid computer issues... of which you would probably not be surprised... EPA management continues to be not familiar with the needs of field survey staff... ☺ I can fill you in on a cursory add-on survey we were able to conduct at the end of the LA-2 site monitoring survey... (ordinarily) over a cup of coffee, but maybe with a Zoom call (with Brian, too...). Let us know your schedule... I do know from other retired folks that their schedules can be as busy or busier than before retirement...

I do hope things are going well for you, Paul! AND I still have a SF-DODS cup for you... I need a home mailing address, and I'll get this to you as soon as possible...

Take care!

-Allan

**From:** Ota, Allan

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 3, 2020 12:41 PM

**To:** Keydel, Susan <[Keydel.Susan@epa.gov](mailto:Keydel.Susan@epa.gov)>; Ziegler, Sam <[Ziegler.Sam@epa.gov](mailto:Ziegler.Sam@epa.gov)>; Ross, Brian <[Ross.Brian@epa.gov](mailto:Ross.Brian@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Article related to your weekly item

Hi, Sue!

Thank you for sending this link; unfortunately I did not see this until now. Unlike two years ago on this same vessel (when we at least had Internet connectivity, but not super-fast...), the Internet connectivity was not available to me with my new EPA laptop in its current configuration... the security layers on the laptop did not “play” well with the ship’s network protocol... some of the other EPA crew had success with using their own smart phones as WiFi hotspots, but even that did not work for me. Furthermore, our current agency license with ESRI for web-based ArcGIS was obviously useless with no reliable Internet connectivity; we were not able to readily update our survey maps in real time. As a result, I am developing a list of critical field equipment, including procurement of a separate field computer loaded with ArcGIS software (not the web-based stuff which would be useless when we’re “off the grid...”) and other mapping tools so this debacle will never be repeated...

As for the article, one of our science crew was able to access the link on their smart phone and we actually had some extra time to do a cursory survey over a portion of the THUMS (the discontinued dump site for drilling muds) where the barrels were dumped; I was able to prepare a simple transect that crossed one of the coordinate locations of a barrel dump location. We did not encounter any drums but we think we saw evidence of the DDT residue (same type of “rust” seen on photos of barrels, but it may be speculative from a limited set of plan view photos (about 20-25 or so...)). A more detailed survey with more plan view photo coverage and actual sediment sampling may be a logical next step for assessing impacts if necessary, but that would not be my call (as they say, above my pay grade...).

I hope things are going well for you. It was nice to hear from you, Sue!

-Allan

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Allan Ota

Oceanographer / Regional Ocean Dumping Program Coordinator

Dredging and Sediment Management Team

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Water Division

Mail Code: WTR-2-2

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

415-972-3476 office

[ota.allan@epa.gov](mailto:ota.allan@epa.gov)

If you have more than 20 MB worth of attachments to send to me,

Please contact me first by email to make arrangements to share the files.

“Live simply, so that others may simply live.” – Saint (Mother) Teresa

**From:** Keydel, Susan <[Keydel.Susan@epa.gov](mailto:Keydel.Susan@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 8:48 AM

**To:** Ziegler, Sam <[Ziegler.Sam@epa.gov](mailto:Ziegler.Sam@epa.gov)>; Ross, Brian <[Ross.Brian@epa.gov](mailto:Ross.Brian@epa.gov)>; Ota, Allan <[Ota.Allan@epa.gov](mailto:Ota.Allan@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Article related to your weekly item

Wanted to share a news article from yesterday's LA Times – drums of waste from Montrose (acid with DDT) found on ocean floor - that may be interesting given your weekly item (monitoring survey of the LA-2 ocean dredged material disposal site located 5 nautical miles of the Los Angeles-Long Beach shoreline at a depth of 400-1,000 feet.

How the waters off Catalina became a DDT dumping ground ...

[www.latimes.com](http://www.latimes.com) › projects › la-coast-ddt-dumping-gr...

1.

1 day ago — “It has been sitting here this whole time, right off our shore.” ... infamous case of environmental destruction off the coast of Los Angeles — one ... From 1947 to 1982, the nation's largest manufacturer of DDT — a pesticide so ...

**From:** Pinkerton, Kate <[Pinkerton.Kate@epa.gov](mailto:Pinkerton.Kate@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2020 3:01 PM

**Subject:** Water Weekly Report for the Week of October 26, 2020

Current and previous Weekly Reports are available at the Water Division SharePoint Site:

<https://usepa.sharepoint.com/sites/R9/WTR>

## **WEEKLY REPORT**

**Region 9**

**Environmental Protection Agency**

**Water Division**

**October 26, 2020**

### **HOT TOPICS**

**Non-Responsive Agreed to By Requester**

# Non-Responsive Agreed to By Requester

## Press Releases:

- R9: [U.S. EPA approves tribes' authority to develop water quality standards, issue air permits](#)
- R9: [U.S. EPA awards over \\$45 million for environmental improvements on tribal lands in America's Pacific Southwest as 28th Annual EPA Tribal Conference ends](#)
- R9: [U.S. EPA Awards Navajo Nation \\$120,000 to support community effort to address environmental and health challenges](#)
- HQ: [Administrator Wheeler Releases Trump Administration's Federal Strategy for Addressing Global Marine Litter](#)
- HQ: [Trump Administration Designates Officials to Implement Actions for the New Water Subcabinet](#)

- HQ: Water Subcabinet Members Highlight Enhanced Aquatic Resource Mapping with Western States

**Kate Pinkerton**

US EPA Region 9

Water Division Communications Liaison

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

**Email:** [pinkerton.kate@epa.gov](mailto:pinkerton.kate@epa.gov)

**Phone:** (415) 972-3662

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Allan Ota

Oceanographer / Regional Ocean Dumping Program Coordinator

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**From:** Paul Jones **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**  
**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 9:02 AM  
**To:** Ross, Brian <[Ross.Brian@epa.gov](mailto:Ross.Brian@epa.gov)>; Ota, Allan <[Ota.Allan@epa.gov](mailto:Ota.Allan@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** LA Times article

Hi, Guys: you probably know all about this, but I just signed through the Pacific Seabird group listserv.

<https://www.latimes.com/projects/la-coast-ddt-dumping-ground/>

I'd be interested in knowing if you've got any official or unofficial responses to this. It's creating a bit of a fuss through that group.

I hope you and your families are doing well, and I wish you all the best.

Paul

Sent from my iPhone